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phism has recrystallized any first formed porphyritic matter. The metamorphism of igneous or intrusive rocks is a subject now attracting much attention, and has important bearing on the origin of the Archæan.¹ As for explaining the slight bedding or laminations of the wall rocks by previous sedimentary stratification, while it is not easy to adduce any positive facts against it, the writer does not believe in it. It seems most reasonable to regard the laminations as due to pressure exerted normally to them, and that the pressure was in almost all cases normal to the dikes as well.

The origin of these well-nigh massive basal rocks of the Archæan is certainly at present a most uncertain theme. Yet, although it is readily to be seen from much that has been written how easy it is to indulge in laboratory speculations which afford little else than controversial material, the writer would nevertheless advance the conclusions drawn from the structure and composition of these dikes as legitimate if not incontrovertible inferences.

SCIENCE IN UTOPIA.

BY C. L. HERRICK.

IT has doubtless been a matter of regret to many of my readers that since the publication of the valuable memoirs of Sir Thomas Moore upon Utopia no one has succeeded in penetrating the veil of mystery hanging over those happy islands.

For my own part I have often amused myself by wondering whether egress is as difficult as access and in imagining a sort of espionage of modern institutions by that conservative and self-satisfied community.

Very unexpectedly my vagaries were suddenly proven realities and I am permitted to record the results of an extended conversation with a representative and very intelligent member of the recent scientific congress of Utopia.

¹ This has been strongly advocated by Lehmann. *Entstehung der Altkrystallinen Schiefergesteine*. Reviewed by D. Geo. H. Williams in *Am. Jour. Sci.* III., vol. xxviii., p. 392.

My present purpose is simply to repeat a few facts communicated by this gentleman which seemed to me well worthy of examination if not imitation by the learned bodies of our own land. For further details the reader is modestly referred to the illustrated memoir now in preparation under the joint superintendence of my Utopian friend and the author.

These remarks must, therefore, be simply regarded in the light of a preliminary notice (*Vorläufige Mittheilung*) for which, by the way, I am assured there is no synonym in Utopian language or praxis.

Mr. Non¹ Nemo himself is well worthy a passing glance. Though below the medium stature of Americans he possesses a perfection of physical development not seen in the intellectual classes of our own people. Upon my remarking upon this peculiarity so disassociated in our minds with a studious habit, Mr. Non Nemo explained that in Utopia a high degree of physical perfection is demanded of public servants and candidates for admission into the ranks of the "*Geleherte*," and that such progress has been made in mastering the laws of heredity that it is rare indeed to find a case of reversion to inferior types among the children of the upper classes. Of course I eagerly inquired whether the attempt consciously to comply with the laws of heredity did not seriously impair the spontaneity of domestic and social relations. But though he admitted that there was some temporary disturbance, Mr. Non Nemo stated that the principles had become so indelibly stamped upon society and embalmed in social precedents that the compliance with the necessary regulations had become instinctive and no conscious limitation of social liberty was experienced.

The genial foreigner expressed great surprise at the general neglect of these laws in this country and went into an uncontrollable fit of laughter when he heard of the system of vicarious physical training now in vogue in American colleges. Gladly as we might linger upon these and similar topics the present occasion suggests that we must pass to the more directly scientific aspects of Utopian life.

Some incidental reference to international congresses brought out

¹ *Non* in Utopian nearly corresponds to *Von* in German or *De* in French.

many inquiries on both sides in the course of which the following facts were elicited. In Utopia during recent years the prosecution of science has enormously increased and, as usual, this increase has mirrored itself in the literature. Under the old system, which closely resembled our own, there was neither official supervision nor recognized limitation upon publication. The great mass of literature soon made specialism necessary with constantly narrowing limits, until the broader purposes of scientific study were rapidly being lost sight of in the attempt to meet the bibliographic obligations thus imposed.

Just at this juncture it happened that the continent of South America was opened to the Utopian explorers (whether this occurred before or subsequent to 1492, I was unable to ascertain, by reason of my unfamiliarity with the standards of Utopian chronology). The result was an alarming increase in purely faunal and systematic publications. The case soon became so desperate that a congress of the sciences was called to meet in the capital city which, after mature deliberation, proposed a permanent organization with the following functions and powers.

The organization was called the parliament of philosophy and is a strictly representative body, so guarded that personal jealousy among competitors can not easily exclude worthy applicants, while the financial burdens are nominal.

A council elected at the biennial session of this parliament is charged with the duties of a bibliographic bureau. In this work they receive aid from the department of state corresponding to our patent office and congressional library, here united under one management. At each session committees, appointed by the various sections, report for adoption a scheme of working classification in the department presided over by the section both as relating to the distribution of subordinate topics and the systematic arrangement of the categories of natural species.

While conformity to the scheme adopted is not binding upon authors, it forms a more or less perfect approximation to current views and is the official standard for reference during the ensuing term. This being settled, writers cannot secure recognition for publications until they have been entered in the proper department of the bureau of bibliography, which is also charged with the duty

of distributing a monthly official statement of all titles registered under the proper rubric. The expense of such a record is jointly provided for by the parliament and the general government.

In case a publication contains proposals of new species or new modifications of classification the rules further require that a separate slip bearing the name and a diagnosis in the scientific language of Utopia of each such species or modification proposed accompany the paper. These are entered under the proper head if, after examination by a special committee they are found to conform to the rules of nomenclature adopted by the parliament. If the name be imperfectly formed or duplicated the committee is directed to return to the author for correction.

The name and systematic position of each species is published in the monthly bulletin. At the next biennial session the proper sections of the parliament or committees appointed by them examine the diagnoses of species proposed during the previous term with a view to eliminate any possible synonyms. It is always understood that uncertainty stands to the credit of the proposed species. The work of this committee, my informant said, was found very delicate and there was difficulty in inducing those best qualified to serve. However, its reports are subject to revision in open section meeting and, on the whole, are most useful.

The result, continued my informant, has been to place wholesome restraint upon the professional species-maker as well as to make it possible for all conscientious students to avoid infringement on the rights of others. The fear of the scrutiny of the committee-room acts as a check on careless description, while the biennial reports periodically clears up any ambiguity. Of course there were many who felt themselves aggrieved by arbitrary decisions, but not so many as those who under the old lack of system justly complained of the freaks of fortune and the injustice of powerful rivals. The general opinion seemed to be that, in the long run, every one received a fair measure of justice from this novel parliament.

It also appears that this central organization has depositaries in all the larger cities of Utopia and in the libraries of the various learned societies and that it is becoming quite the thing for every author to send a copy of systematic papers to each of these

depositories for convenience of examination. Some return is made by the government but just what my informant neglected to state.

I was much interested in Mr. Non Nemo's account of the adjustment of a conflict between local bureaus of research (somewhat like our state geological surveys but with a wider scope), and the official scientific commission of Utopia. This subject, however, we hope to fully elucidate in our contemplated memoir and will simply remark that the adjustment charged the local bureaus with the detailed examinations and collection of material, and imposed the duty of turning over a certain part of the facts and material to the central organization, which reduced the whole to systematic form, and included in its report an epitome of the more detailed publications of the local bureaus.

Several of the provisions described above seem to the writer adapted to the work of the Association for Advancement of Science and later to the International Congress of Sciences and, I trust, we may arrive at a satisfactory system without the long period of experiment and bitterness passed through by science in Utopia.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF FIELD-MOUSE (*ARVICOLA PALLIDUS*) FROM DAKOTA.

BY DR. C. HART MERRIAM.

AMONG some small mammals collected during the past season at Fort Buford, in Northwestern Dakota, by Mr. Vernon Bailey, are four well-prepared skins with skulls of a very light-colored *Arvicola*, a careful study of which has led to some important and unexpected results. Concerning their habits, Mr. Bailey contributes the following: "The *pallid Arvicolas* seem to be common at Fort Buford. They show a decided preference for the north side of steep hills. I have not found them on the south, southeast, or southwest sides. The only reason I can suggest for this distribution is that the twilight (their favorite hour) is longer